Colquitz Mental Hospital May Soon Be Closed

Indication that the Colquitz Mental Hospital may be closed down in the not too distant future was given in the annual report of the mental health services released in the legislature yesterday.

The report points out that the former idea of isolating the mentally ill in a remote mental hospital where efforts were made to produce a quiet restful existence is outdated.

"Future treatment facilities should be located in conjunction with medical centres and in the main streams of life, in small units and close to the patient's home surroundings," the report says.

"If more up-to-date and more effective means of dealing with mental health problems can be put to use within the community, construction of mental hospitals will be a thing of the past.

"If this process of gradual self-elimination of our mental hospitals continues, there are three units which can be evacuated . . . the original Farm Cottage and Farm Annex at Essondale and the Mental Hospital at Colquitz," the report says.

The report says there is no indication that mental hospitals will be entirely unnecessary, but there is every indication that the number of patients in mental hospitals can be greatly reduced.

It goes so far as to say that the majority of future patients need not go to hospital if given early diagnosis and help in the community.

The new trends will be carefully studied by a survey team of the American Psychiatric Association which is scheduled to conduct a survey of the mental-health needs and resources of British Columbia.

From the survey a blueprint for five, 10 and 20-year mental health programs is expected to evolve.

There are now 287 patients at the Colquitz Mental Home on Wilkinson Road in Saanich.

Of the Colquitz institution the reports said that "in a building as old as this institution there is much maintenance work to be done. Most of this is done with supervised patient help and is considered industrial therapy."

It was also pointed out that many Christmas toys collected by the Victoria Optimist Club were repaired by mental patients and returned to the Optimist Club for distribution among the needy.

LOCAL NEWS

The Daily Colonist.

(ESTABLISHED 1858)

CLASSIFIED

SECOND NEWS SECTION — VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1959 — PAGE THIRTEEN

Jaycees' Skating Rink Drive

Only $20,000 Raised

Only about $20,000 has been realized from the Junior Chamber of Commerce drive to raise $123,000 for a new ice-skating surface.

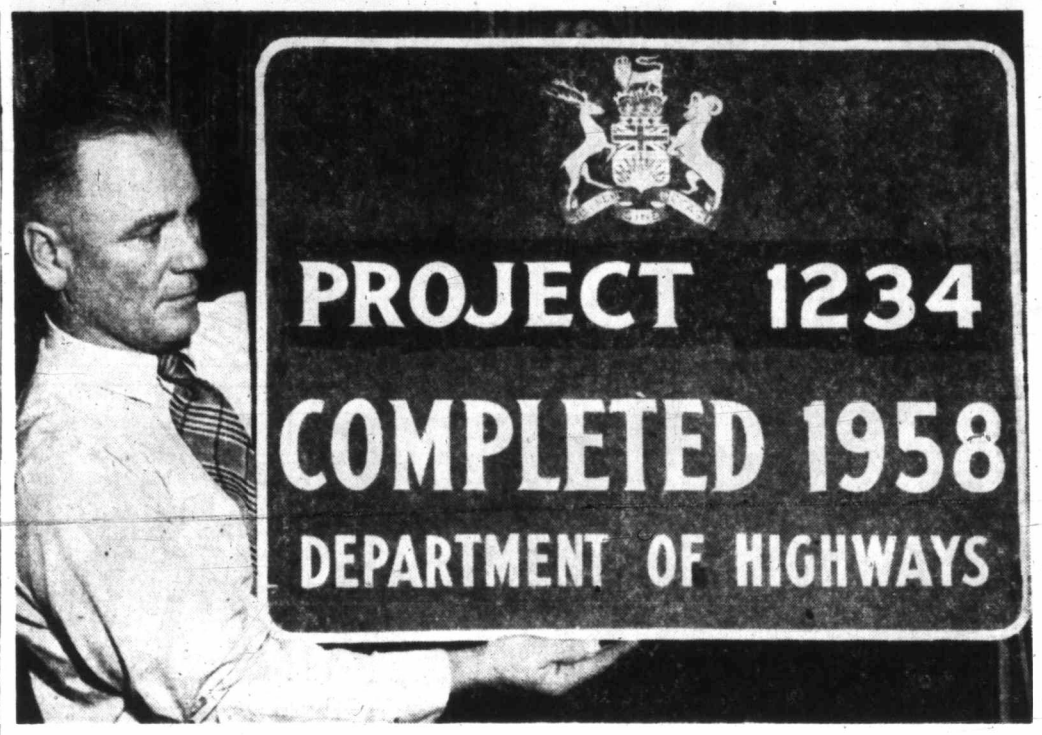
"And Jaycees are mighty disappointed in the public's reaction to this great need," said Stewart Hagar, director in charge of the community betterment committee.

"Unless many people reconsider, the whole project may have to be abandoned," he said.

Mr. Hagar reminded Greater Victorians that the deadline for the drive is not until April 1. Anyone wanting to make a donation is asked to phone EV 3-4521 between 1 and 5 p.m., weekdays.

"We can still put this over and we're hoping the usually-generous people of this district will come forward in the coming weeks.

"A new skating rink is desperately needed for hundreds of youngsters," he said, "and we would sure like to see them get it."



Cards Identify Canvassers For Hospital

Canvassers in the campaign to raise funds for extension of Royal Jubilee Hospital will all carry identification cards, the hospital's campaign office announced yesterday.

The cards, the hospital said, will serve two purposes: to protect the integrity of the campaign organization and eliminate the possibility of unauthorized persons canvassing, and to assure the public that contributions will be handled by prominent and trustworthy citizens of Victoria.

'Lotus Eaters' Being Chopped

The "lotus-eaters" among Greater Victoria's junior and senior high school students —those few who just won't apply themselves— are being weeded out.

"Quite a number have been warned lately," said John Gough, Greater Victoria school superintendent.

HAVE TO LEAVE

"And if they don't change their ways, they will have to leave school."

Mr. Gough made the disclosure while commenting on a report last night about the Calgary school board's "laggard policy."

35 IN CALGARY

Some 35 Calgary high school students have been asked to leave school this year, the report said. Since 1955 when the plan was introduced in Calgary, 135 students have been asked to withdraw.

Classed as laggards are those whom the board feels are failing to put sufficient effort into their studies.

'I DON'T CARE'

The daydreaming, "I-don't-care" students are warned several times and if by mid-term there is no improvement, they are asked to leave.

They form about one per cent of those attending classes, the Calgary report said.

QUIET SYSTEM

"Our system, which we've been using quietly for the past few years, is just about the same as Calgary's," said Mr. Gough.

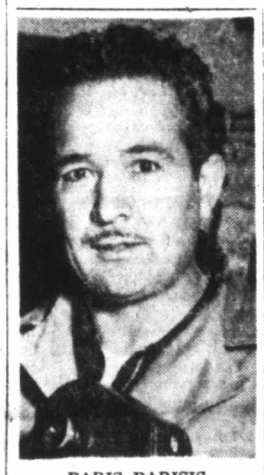
"However," he added, "we can operate more confidently now since the revised Public Schools Act gives a principal the power to get rid of the laggards."

PARENTS INVITED

When the problem first becomes apparent, Mr. Gough said, the pupil's parents are invited to the school to discuss the situation.

"After that, the student is given every chance to show improvement — he is given many warnings.

"The laggard must improve," said Mr. Gough, "or out he goes."



PARIS PARISIS

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Seen In Passing

Paris Parisis, stretching a woman's shoe at his Fairfield Shoe Repairs store, 333 Cook. (He is a new Canadian from Greece who has lived here two years and been in the shoe repairs business for 25 years. With his wife **Irene** he lives at 341 Vancouver. His hobby is salmon fishing.) . . . **Wilf Sadler** checking a fuel oil problem . . . **Charles** and **Sonia Croucher** enjoying a feed of scallops . . . **Cliff Wall** smoking a big cigar . . . **Hugh Shantz** and city lawyer **Don Anderson** enjoying a workout at a city gymnasium . . . **Len LeDoux** talking about real estate . . . **Ray McCorkall** back at work after an operation and liking it . . . **Bill Webster** telling about the capture of a German U-boat by his wartime ship, HMCS Regina, named after the city he came from . . . **Harry Fowler** rushing home to milk his cow . . . **Philip Chan** remarking business is slow .

No Station If Mayor Has His Way

A new police station won't be built for a while if Mayor Percy Scurrah has his way.

In the mayor's recent absence, police commission considered a request from the police chief for a new station.

But the mayor said definitely it wasn't in prospect for this year—"Not a chance."

A civic auditorium and a new city hall were among the improvements which should come first, he said.

Paid Staff Needed

Working Patients Feeble

Patients in provincially-operated homes for the aged are becoming too feeble to work in the laundries, dining rooms and grounds.

In order to maintain existing services in the three such homes it will be necessary in the future to make provision for more paid staff because reliable patient help is gradually becoming less available.

The information was given to the legislature yesterday in the annual report of the mental health service.

It has been very difficult to replace working patients in the laundry, dining rooms and kitchen as well as for grounds maintenance, the report said. It added that most patients admitted directly from the community have been too feeble to be considered for regular work.

Provincial homes for the aged are at Port Coquitlam, where there are 548 patients; Vernon, where there are 234 patients, and Terrace, where there are 286 patients.

Narcotic Service Advocated

A special narcotic service to operate separately from any existing police authority was advocated in the legislature yesterday by government whip Bert Price (SC, Vancouver-Burrard).

He said the new service should have authority to act and if given sufficient money might clean up the narcotic situation.

Mr. Price charged that action of federal police on narcotic control had been somewhat spasmodic.

"The present program of narcotic control has failed," he said.

Randolph Harding (CCF, Kaslo-Slocan) called for a new program of after care as one of the cheapest methods of rehabilitation.

He said young girls who leave Oakalla after serving a narcotic sentence should be given a job in government or somewhere where they could receive such care.

Pay Known By City Staff On March 13

City hall inside staff members will know soon what their pay cheques will look like for the rest of the year.

A conciliation board has been appointed to consider the City Hall Employees' Association request for a 14.41 per cent pay increase and city council's objection to raising wages at all. The board is scheduled to present its findings—which will be binding on both sides — by March 13.

'Sorry' Signs Keep Moving

Long familiar "Sorry for the Inconvenience" signs on Vancouver Island and other B.C. roads are being replaced by signs similar to the above, signifying the motorist at last has smooth driving ahead. The "Sorry" signs won't be scrapped, though. They are being moved to other locations as government's road improvement program continues. Holding sample sign produced at highways department sign shop in Langford is foreman A. E. "Arnie" Davies. — (Colonist photo)

Socred MLAs:

Allow B.C. Indians To Drink Freely

Two Social Credit MLAs last night called on Attorney-General Robert Bonner to amend the provincial liquor regulation to allow Indians to drink liquor freely.

Present provincial liquor regulations encourage bootlegging to Indians, Cyril Shelford (Omineca) told Mr. Bonner in the legislature.

He was speaking in support of remarks by Hugh Shirreff (Skeena), who said the sooner Indians were made "first-class citizens," the sooner bootlegging would be eliminated.

"Indians in beer parlors drink more because they know they can't get any more once they leave," Mr. Shelford said.

He also called for establishment of liquor outlets in many communities of 500 to 600 population which are without any outlet at present.

Discussion arose during debate of Mr. Bonner's personal salary estimates.

City Soldier Injured In Egypt

A Victoria man was one of four Canadian soldiers injured Sunday when a mine exploded under their ferret scout car in the Egyptian desert.

Army headquarters yesterday identified the local soldier at Pte. James Franklin Gordon.

He was slightly injured when his scout car, leading a supply convoy to a United Nations Emergency Force outpost, touched off an anti-tank mine.

Air Service

Chamber Bucks Bids

The Victoria Chamber of Commerce has asked the Air Transport Board to dismiss the two applications the board has before it to operate the Vancouver-Victoria-Seattle air service.

"Trans-Canada Air Lines has served this route with distinction for many years now," said the chamber brief.

The two applicants, Pacific Western Airlines and B.C. Airlines, could not match TCA's service, the brief indicated.

Of the PWA plan to use C-46s rather than DC-3s, the chamber said:

"In view of the apparent reluctance of other airline operators to use the C-46, we are of the opinion that the suitability of this aircraft is indeed questionable."

The brief also said "it is the opinion of the chamber that all applicants have failed to:

1. Demonstrate public interest in and accepance of the services which they propose to offer.
2. Prove their ability to provide an adequate service.
3. Show that they can provide an equivalent service at no increase in cost.
4. Make the provision for the supply of adequate and suitable aircraft."

Not 'Ah!' But 'Our' Wilderness

British Columbia Travel Bureau's preliminary calendar of events planned for Vancouver Island this year ranges from three regional drama festivals to the annual Cowichan plowing match. Among some 60 events listed for the Island are three which took place before the calendar was made public and the Victoria College play, "Ah Wilderness," which is listed as "Our Wilderness."

Record Entry Expected

Swiftsure Race Set for May 29

One of North America's greatest annual yachting events — the Swiftsure race from Victoria's Brotchie Ledge to Race Rocks and back—will be held May 29 this year with a record entry.

"There'll be 43 boats this time, including most of the top contenders of other years," said a spokesman for the Royal Victoria Yacht Club last night.

"There'll also be the usual Inner Harbor festivities the night before the race," he said.

These will include the Meistersingers on the deck of the Black Dog, serenading the thousands of Victorians along the Causeway, and the traditional sunset ceremony on the grounds of the legislative buildings.

The race starts at 9 a.m. Friday, May 29, "and we're hoping to get Vancouver's old nine o'clock gun to start it off," said the spokesman.

There were complaints last year, he said, that the starting shotgun was not audible to all boats.

A complete information service on the race will be provided by radio-telephone hook-up, based in Eaton's window from the start of the race until Saturday midnight.

"If the race still isn't over by then, we'll move the equipment from Eaton's to the yacht club," the spokesman said.

City UBC Alumni Re-elect Roy

R. H. Roy has been re-elected president of the UBC Alumni Association, Victoria branch.

Other officers include Mrs. Jean Bain, first vice-president; Brian Roberts, second vice-president; Maureen Bray, secretary; and David Ferne, treasurer.

Executive committee members are Peter Forward, Ronald Foxall, Connie Holmes, Kenneth McKay, Reginald Reid, William Scoones, Donald South, Eric Townsend and Robert Wallace.

$1,000 Cash Optimists' Bingo Lure

Victoria Optimists will give away $1,000 in cash during a bingo at Central Junior High School auditorium at 8 p.m., Thursday.

Proceeds from the bingo, featuring a $450 jackpot and another game for $200, will go towards Optimist Club youth charities.

Tickets cost $1 and can be purchased at Hudson's Bay Company, Diggon's, B.C. Meat Market, Victoria Photo Supply Co., Irene's Coffee Shop, Willis Travel Service and Gem Fish and Chips.

Estimate Cuts Begin Soon

City council's anual task of trimming estimates may begin this week.

Finance committee will be the first to go to work, considering estimates of 1959 expenditure for "general government." First meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Friday.

City Ponders Parks Fund

City council parks committee asked parks administrator W. H. Warren Monday for a detailed report on how a committee might be established to accept and administer funds left or given for parks improvements.

Gargrave Appeal to Bonner:

Bar Ottawa's Use Of Jails for Hanging

Tony Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie) last night called on Attorney-General Robert Bonner to refuse to allow the death sentence to be carried out in provincial jails.

"I feel like telling the federal government that if they wish to exercise the provisions of the Criminal Code by carrying out this barbaric punishment, the federal government should provide its own facilities," he said.

Mr. Bonner commented that he did not think the suggestion consistent with the responsibilities of the province under terms of confederation.

He said a new policy on capital punishment was under consideration by the federal government. He said 18 of 21 death sentences passed since the present federal government took office had been commuted.

Act 'Full of Holes'

The labor legislation introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by the provincial government was described as "a most amazing document," "shot through full of holes," and "dangerous legislation," last night.

The charges were levelled by Robert Strachan, leader of the opposition, who challenged Attoney General Bonner to read the legislation personally.

"The bill is wide open to interpretation . . ." Mr. Strachan said. "Every member of this House would have a different interpretation. It seems like the work of an amateur."

Parking Reform Foiled

Ald. Elmer McEwen had little success yesterday in an effort to persuade the rest of public works committee that rush-hour parking bans on downtown streets should be lifted.

He did, however, gain some ground: the committee agreed to have traffic counts made on Johnson east of Douglas with and without the parking ban to see the effect.

Ald. McEwen maintained that the evening rush-hour was "the most valuable hour of the day as far as business is concerned," or would be if cars could be parked.

He also contended that "the more cars are parked, the less the traffic problem is going to be."

But assistant city engineer Norman Worsley countered that major tie-ups were caused by drivers trying to get into and out of parking spaces. He said that eliminating parking, even if traffic didn't use the curb lane, doubled the capacity of the outer lane.